

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Log of Meeting**

SUBJECT: Shopping Carts

DATE OF MEETING: September 17, 2002

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Barbara J. Jacobson

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: October 18, 2002

LOCATION: ASTM International – West Conshohocken, PA

CPSC ATTENDEES:

Barbara Jacobson, Directorate for Health Sciences,
Caroleene Paul, Directorate for Engineering Sciences

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES:

John A. Blair, Chairman of ASTM International
Committee F15 on Consumer Products
Pat Picariello, ASTM Director, Corporate Development
Katharine Morgan, General Manager, ASTM Technical Committee Support
Shopping cart and child-seat restraint manufacturers.

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Pat Picariello provided an overview of ASTM International and its information development process. John Blair provided an overview of the ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products, including the scope and structure. John Blair described how Committee F15 uses the fast track standard process for the development of safety related standards.

Barbara Jacobson reviewed an April 10, 2000, CPSC memorandum on shopping-cart related incidents. CPSC staff estimates that about 18,500 children younger than 5 years old were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments for injuries associated with shopping carts in 1999. About 91 percent of the children were treated for injuries related to falls. The memorandum also includes the results of a special study on fall-related injuries conducted between October 1, 1998, and September 30, 1999. Based on the hazard patterns identified in the study, children fall from the cart basket more often than from the child seat. Approximately half of the children that fell from the seat were buckled up and approximately half were not. Some of the falls involved children in infant seats, infant carriers, or car seats placed in the child seating compartment. Barbara stated that the Commission does not have a project on shopping carts at this time but the staff would support an ASTM activity to address shopping-cart related injuries.

Norman DeCost of Rehrig International read a statement presenting the views concerning safety design considerations from the perspective of a shopping cart manufacturer. He stated "My experience suggests that design is by far the lesser of the two causes of accidents involving shopping carts, and use or misuse is the far greater cause." He called for the commission of a study to "collect and profile data concerning safety with shopping carts to determine the root causes of accidents." He urged the establishment of an education action program with a method for evaluating the effectiveness.

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John Blair indicated that the F15.90 Executive Subcommittee could approach the CPSC to discuss the development of an education program devoted to shopping cart safety.

The meeting attendees voted to officially organize an activity with ASTM International as Subcommittee F15.56 on Shopping Carts. Possible areas to be covered by the scope of the sub-committee include education, child restraints, warning labels, infant seats, wheel function, applicability of EU performance standards, a general usage guide, a prompts guide.

CPSC staff agreed to work on a task group to draft a labeling document, a general safety document, and a safety use bulletin. The ASTM Interactive Standards Forums (ISDF) will be used for posting drafts and soliciting comments.

FUTURE MEETING:

The next meeting will be called once sufficient progress has been made on the draft standard.